



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

FORMER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO FOUR COUNTS OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Child predator used Internet to solicit phone sex with female minors

SAN DIEGO – A former San Diego police officer pleaded guilty to one felony count of using a minor to manufacture child pornography and three misdemeanor counts of possessing child pornography last week in San Diego Superior Court.

Brett Kenneth Hensley, 36, voluntarily surrendered on January 18 following the execution of a California state search warrant at his home and work site in February 2004 by ICE and San Diego Police Department (SDPD) officers.

A forensic review of Hensley's home and work site computers revealed numerous images of child pornography and email messages indicating he was communicating with female minors and posing as a minor himself. After further investigation, agents discovered that Hensley had solicited photos and phone sex with minor females.

One minor victim, who lives out of state, told agents that Hensley solicited phone sex with her over the Internet and requested that she email him sexually explicit photographs of herself.

If convicted on all charges, Hensley faces a maximum of three years in prison. State sentencing has been set for September 15, 2005, in San Diego Superior Court.

The investigation into Hensley grew out of an ongoing ICE investigation into an Internet billing company in Minsk, Belarus. In January 2004, the company was charged with money laundering as well as providing credit card billing services for 50 child pornography websites worldwide and operating child porn websites on its own. Three officers of the company were arrested in Europe and have been extradited to the United States. All three of those officers have pleaded guilty in Newark, N.J., as have four officers of two affiliated companies in Florida and California.

Having dismantled the leadership of the enterprise, ICE agents in domestic ICE offices and 52 Attaché offices worldwide turned their focus to those who purchased child porn subscriptions from

these sites in the U.S. and abroad. More than 1,200 individuals have been arrested worldwide in the investigation. ICE has arrested 235 in the U.S. and foreign law enforcement, acting on ICE leads, have arrested more than 1,000 individuals in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

To date, ICE agents in San Diego and Imperial Counties have arrested 27 individuals in conjunction with this investigation. Of those, 12 have pleaded guilty to child pornography charges and 11 have been convicted of charges related to child pornography in state and military courts.

Members of the public wishing to report suspicious activity may contact ICE at 1-866-DHS-2ICE or Operation.Predator@dhs.gov. ICE's non-governmental partners include World Vision at http://www.worldvision.org/worldvision/wvusufso.nsf/stable/globalissues_stp and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at <http://www.missingkids.org/>. Additional information about Operation Predator is posted at www.ice.gov.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.